

The unitary projector assembly 26 may be of any suitable construction, such as that disclosed and described in my aforementioned copending application. It will be understood that film 42 is mounted on supply and takeup spools 43,43 with the intervening portion passing past the aperture of gate 53. Light from the high-intensity lamp 44 passes through the film and projects an image therefrom through the projection lens assembly 45, through the transparent portion 22 of panel 18, thence onto a reflecting mirror 48 best shown in FIG. 2. The supply and takeup spools 43 are located on either side of the light beam and are suitably driven by a belt 49 connected with a reversible, variable-speed motor 50 secured to main frame 30 of the projector. A plate of glass 52 hinged to the main frame bears lightly against film 42 and holds it pressed flat and firmly across the projector gate assembly 53.

Reflecting mirror 48 has a pair of trunnions 55,55 selectively mountable in any pair of a series of slots 56 formed in the edge of a bracket 57 secured to apparatus housing top 15. A threaded shank 59 attached to the forward edge of the mirror extends through a vertical slot 60 of a vertical panel 61 secured to top wall 15 of the main housing. Shank 59 and mirror 48 may be clamped in any desired tilted position along slot 60 by a clamping nut 62 having a rubber washer 63 bearing against the face of panel 61.

Another feature of the invention concerns convenient means to facilitate accurate focusing of the projector on display surface 18. Normally, the focus-adjusting ring 70 of the projector is inaccessible because positioned immediately beneath panel 18. If this full panel is raised to give access to the adjusting ring, then the panel surface is unavailable to receive the image while adjusting the focusing ring. According to one construction for dealing with this problem, panel 18 may be formed in two parts by a line of severance extending crosswise of counter 12. Hence, one-half may be lifted to give access to adjusting ring 70 while the other half remains available for viewing the image as the ring is being adjusted.

Alternatively, a retractable focusing accessory may be used of the general type designated generally 75 in FIG. 4. This accessory comprises a tubular pedestal 76 rigidly secured to main frame 30 and over which is loosely telescoped a thimble 77 urged upwardly by a light compression spring 78. A stop pin 79 threaded into pedestal 76 is located in a slot 80 of thimble 77 and holds the latter in assembled position. A threaded adjusting ring 81 rotatably supported along the lower end of thimble 77 provides an adjustable stop cooperating with pin 79 to limit the upward movement of member 77 so that its exterior end surface 83 lies flush with the normal surface of panel 18. Thus, when ring 81 is properly adjusted, its surface 83 will come to rest precisely flush with the normal operating position of the upper surface of panel 18. Accordingly, it will be understood that the focusing adjustment is made by lifting panel 18 to its open position whereupon member 77 automatically moves to its extended position with surface 83 flush with the normal position of the image display surface. The operator then proceeds to adjust the focusing ring 70 until the portion of the image falling on surface 83 is in sharp focus. The operator then lowers panel 18 automatically shifting member 77 back to its retracted position.

The operation of the described microfilm display apparatus will be readily apparent from the foregoing detailed description of its components and their operative relationship to one another. The projector is loaded with film in the usual manner after first lifting panel 18 to provide access to the projector. The projector may be lifted from bearing ring 28 during the loading process if desired and then simply dropped back into position, care being taken to make certain that toothed ring 33 meshes with the teeth of adjusting ring 35 (FIG. 2). Before restoring panel 18 to its closed position, the operator may check to make certain that the projector lens 45 is in focus by viewing the image thrown onto surface 83 of the supplemental image display member 77. This having been done, panel 18 is closed and equipment is ready for use.

The film is advanced in either direction past gate 53 by the use of control knob 85 (FIG. 1). It will be understood that this control knob can be rotated in either direction from its "off" or "null" position and controls the polarity and amount of energizing current supplied to film-drive motor 50. If knob 85 is turned to the right, the film is advanced forward slowly and with increasing speed as knob 85 is advanced clockwise. If the film is advanced slightly too far, this error is corrected by turning the knob slightly counterclockwise to reverse the motor 50 at slow speed, the knob being returned to its neutral or "off" position when the film is precisely in position.

The image is, of course, projected through opening 22 onto mirror 48 which reflects the image onto the main display surface provided by panel 18.

If the viewer experiences difficulty in reading matter on the rear edge of the viewing panel, he may shift the image toward him by manipulating clamping knob 62 and then moving this knob upward slightly along slot 60 to tilt mirror 48, thereby throwing the rear portion of the image closer to the forward edge of the panel. Likewise, the image may be made larger or smaller by loosening nut 62 and then shifting mirror 48 to a different pair of notches 56.

If an image thrown on surface 18 is oriented in the wrong direction, the operator merely engages the knurled rim of control ring 37 with his thumb and rotates this ring 90° in one direction or the other until the image is properly oriented, this operation serving to rotate the projector as a whole on turntable-bearing assembly 28 about the axis of projection lens 48.

While the particular microfilm projector apparatus herein shown and disclosed in detail is fully capable of attaining the objects and providing the advantages hereinbefore stated, it is to be understood that it is merely illustrative of the presently preferred embodiment of the invention and that no limitations are intended to the details of construction or design herein shown other than as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. Microfilm-reading apparatus comprising: means providing a large area image display surface for the material to be read, image reflector means facing toward but spaced forwardly of said image display surface, microfilm projector means located rearwardly of said image display surface with its image projection axis passing centrally through a small area window therethrough in an area located within the perimeter of the image reflected thereon from said image reflector means, and means for shifting the reflected image on the image-reading surface to facilitate reading the portion of the image previously pierced by the projection light beam.

2. Reading apparatus as defined in claim 1 characterized in the provision of means supporting said image display surface in a convenient viewing position for a viewer while seated thereadjacent.

3. Reading apparatus as defined in claim 1 characterized in the provision of means supporting said image display surface generally horizontally adjacent writing surface means convenient to a viewer seated along one edge of said display surface.

4. Reading apparatus as defined in claim 1 characterized in the provision of light-shrouding means enclosing said image display surface except along the forward edge thereof.

5. Reader apparatus as defined in claim 1 characterized in that said image display surface means includes first and second surfaces the first of which receives a portion only of the image from said projector means and the second of which is movable to a position providing the viewer with access to image-focusing means on said projector means and located behind said image display surface, and said second surface being movable to a position giving the viewer access to a focusing adjustment for said projector while the viewer observes the image on said first image display surface to determine when the projector is properly focused.

6. Reader apparatus as defined in claim 5 characterized in that said first image display surface is supported normally in a retracted nonoperating position, and means operatively as-